

Message Text

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64

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 RSC-01

OIC-04 AGR-20 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 DRC-01 /157 W
----- 016473

R 181530Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2784

INFO USUN NEW YORK 1909

US MISSION GENEVA 2047

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS ROME 0790

OECD PASS MARTIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, FAO

SUBJ: FAO PLANS FOR FURTHER WORK - WORLD FOOD SECURITY

/SUMMARY/. IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION ON MINIMUM WORLD FOOD SECURITY APPROVED BY NOVEMBER 1973 CONFERENCE, FAO PLANS CONVENE JUNE 1974 MEETING OF SPECIAL WORKING PARTY TO REVIEW AND REVISE DRAFT UNDERTAKING ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY. DRAFT WILL BE REVIEWED BY FAO'S COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS (CCP) AND SUBMITTED TO GOVERNMENTS FOR ADOPTION. ALSO IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SAME RESOLUTION FAO DEVELOPING, TOGETHER WITH WHEAT COUNCIL, PROCEDURES FOR IMPROVING INFORMATION SYSTEM ON WORLD CEREALS SITUATION AND OUTLOOK. WITH REGARD HELPING LDC'S, PILOT MISSION TO ETHIOPIA DEPARTS IN FEBRUARY TO ASSIST IN FORMULATING NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY POLICY. ANY U.S. REACTION TO FAO TENTATIVE PLANS SHOULD BE CONVEYED ASAP TO HAVE EFFECT IN FORMULATION PHASE.
/END SUMMARY/.

1. 17TH FAO CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER 1973 APPROVED RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONCERN ON WORLD FOOD STOCK SITUATION. RESOLUTION ENDORSED BASIC PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ACTION
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OF WORLD FOOD SECURITY IN "DRAFT INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING ON

WORLD FOOD SECURITY" PROPOSED TO CONFERENCE BY FAO DG. RESOLUTION CALLED FOR CONVENING OF WORKING PARTY TO REVIEW DRAFT UNDERTAKING AND TO PREPARE REVISED TEXT FOR CONSIDERATION BY FAO'S COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS (OCTOBER 1974) WITH SUBSEQUENT ADOPTION BY GOVERNMENTS.

2. FAO PLANS CONVENE WORKING PARTY FOR A WEEK'S SESSION IN JUNE 1974. FAO ACTION OFFICER (LEEKES) INFORMED US FAO'S THINKING IS TO PREPARE ADDITIONAL PAPER WHICH WILL CONTAIN A SUMMARY OF VIEWPOINTS EXPRESSED AT CONFERENCE WHICH, TOGETHER WITH THE DRAFT UNDERTAKING, WILL SERVE AS DOCUMENTATION FOR THE MEETING. LEEKES BELIEVES FAO HAS AUTHORITY TO INVITE NON-MEMBERS (I.E. USSR) BOTH TO WORKING PARTY AND CCP./ CURRENT PLANS ARE THAT INVITATIONS WILL BE ISSUED TO ALL COUNTRIES SINCE IT DIFFICULT TO DEFINE WHICH GOVERNMENTS DO NOT HAVE "SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST IN PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION AND TRADE OF CEREALS" (LANGUAGE OF RESOLUTION). INVITATIONS WILL PROBABLY BE DISPATCHED IN APRIL 1974.

3. RESOLUTION ALSO REQUESTED FAO DG TO "ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE FOOD INFORMATION SYSTEM THROUGH A STRENGTHENING OF THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS--DRAWING UPON THE WORK ALREADY UNDER WAY IN THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL." FAO SECRETARIAT ON BASIS OF RECENT DISCUSSION WITH EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WHEAT COUNCIL PLANNING TO PREPARE DRAFT ASSESSMENT ON WORLD CEREAL SITUATION AND OUTLOOK FOCUSED ON STOCK SITUATION WHICH WILL BE REVIEWED BY INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. REVISED DRAFT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO APPROPRIATE GROUPS MEETING BETWEEN NOW AND CCP MEETING. IT WILL BE CONTINUALLY REVISED BEFORE BEING PRESENTED TO FAO'S CCP.

4. RESOLUTION ALSO ADVISED COUNTRIES TO ESTABLISH "APPROPRIATE FOOD SECURITY POLICIES" AND REQUESTED FAO TO ASSIST. PILOT MISSION TO ETHIOPIA PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY AS FOLLOW-UP.

5. /COMMENT/. LEEKES INFORMED US THESE ARE PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON WORKING PARTY AND INFORMATION SYSTEM. ALTHOUGH HE DIDN'T INVITE U.S. REACTION, IT OBVIOUS THAT ANY VIEWS WE HAVE ON THESE QUESTIONS SHOULD BE COMMUNICATED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO INFLUENCE DEVELOPMENT OF PLANNING FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR LEADING UP TO THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. (FOR EXAMPLE, SHOULD WE TRY TO UNCLASSIFIED

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LIMIT WORKING PARTY TO MAIN EXPORTERS AND IMPORTERS?) IT IS LIKELY THAT THIS WORK AND THE PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE WILL BE CLOSELY LINKED, ALTHOUGH LEEKES DID NOT SEEM OVERLY SENSITIVE TO THE INTERRELATIONSHIP TO WHAT HE (AS ACTION OFFICER) IS PLANNING, AND WHAT MIGHT BE DEVELOPED BY THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, IT SEEMS PROBABLE FAO WORK IN THIS AREA WILL BE ONE OF SEVERAL LIKELY DEPARTURE POINTS FOR WFC DISCUSSION.VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, FOOD ASSISTANCE, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME00790
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740131/aaaabdlt.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 FEB 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAO PLANS FOR FURTHER WORK - WORLD FOOD SECURITY /SUMMARY/. IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION ON MINIMUM WORLD FOOD
TAGS: EAID, UN, FAO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005